

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1959



Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

F.E. RAEBURN, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1960.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1959.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of infectious disease.

Allowing for degrees of statistical significance in the numbers under consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably with the Country as a whole.

I am indebted to Mr. Raeburn your Public Health Inspector for his co-operation and help during the year, and for assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to my clerk, Mrs. J. Sammons, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Lois J. Pearson.

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

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A. Area - 1,650 acres.

Rateable value: 1st April 1960 - £93,834.

Production of a penny rate: 1959/60 - £358 (estimated).

1960/61 - £358 (estimated).

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,220

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>		Comparative Rates	
				(a) Sherborne U.D.	(b) England & Wales
Total	36	36	Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	33	35	resident pop:		
Illegitimate	3	1	= 10.0	12.7	16.5

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	1	1	Rate per 1,000		
			live & stillbirths		
(Both legitimate)			= 27.0	27.0	20.7

DEATHS.

Total	39	37	Rate per 1,000		
			resident pop:		
			= 10.5	10.3	11.6

Deaths in Infants.

Under 1 Year	1	2	Infantile death		
Under 4 Weeks	Nil	1	rate per 1,000		
Under 1 Week	Nil	1	live births		
(All legitimate)			= 41.6	41.6	22.0

	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the lungs	1	Nil	1	1
" " Other Cancer	13	12	7	-
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	13	10	9	11
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases	25	35	16	-
" " Influenza	4	Nil	2	2
" " Pneumonia	4	3	6	4
" " Motor vehicle accidents	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	1	1	Nil	1
" " Suicide	1	Nil	Nil	1
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	1	1	1

B. Nature of the District.

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, glove making, dairies and silk mills.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, have continued to be provided by the County Council.

Although the County Council's home help service has not yet developed fully in your district there has been a steady increase in the facilities locally available.

The Public Health Laboratory Service have again proved co-operative and efficient.

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Prophylactic Inoculations.

Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

During the year the following treatments were carried out. The figures in parenthesis are those for the preceding year.

Poliomyelitis (Six months to twenty five years)

A poliomyelitis vaccination treatment session was held regularly in Sherborne on the third Friday in the month from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Two treatments completed	782	(1,112)
Three treatments completed	1,525	-

Diphtheria

Primary treatments	90	(64)
Booster treatments	85	(46)

Whooping Cough

Primary treatments	78	(80)
Booster treatments	14	(4)

Tetanus

Primary treatments	75	(32)
Booster treatments	8	(1)

Smallpox

Primary vaccinations	59	(75)
Re-vaccinations	39	(14)

<u>B.C.G. Vaccination</u> against tuber- culosis	183	-
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D. Environmental Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is slightly more than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector - F.E. Raeburn, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff - Three clerks (part time)

WATER SUPPLY.

<u>Rainfall</u>	-	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>
		29.37 ins.	34.12 ins.	31.34 ins.

110 regular monthly samples from each of the Council's supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and 7 samples were submitted for chemical examination. Daily testing of the supplies for residual chlorine was carried out. The fluorine content of the supplies was shown to be between 0.2 and 0.3 parts per million.

A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. From these supplies 25 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

2,093 houses in the Urban District are provided with a water supply piped into the house. 64 houses obtain their water by means of standpipes.

Wessex Water Board.

During the year your Council, together with the following local Authorities, agreed to form a joint water board - Yeovil and Chard Borough Councils; Crewkerne and Ilminster Urban District Councils and Sherborne, Chard, Langport, Yeovil and Wincanton Rural District Councils.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A contract for alterations and improvements at the sewage disposal works at the cost of £32,109 was signed during the year. The work was commenced early in 1960.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse. The Council's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

Salvage. Sixty seven tons of paper, twenty two tons of scrap metal and two tons of rags were collected during the year.

Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

In November, at the request of the Council, a drainage alteration was made on the premises of one large dairy in the district to prevent the entry of milk washings into the surface water sewerage system to reduce the pollution of the river.

SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3) (4) and (5) of the Act.

No. of inspections carried out	<u>3</u>
No. of defects found	<u>Nil</u>
No. of notices served	<u>Nil</u>
No. of notices complied with	<u>Nil</u>

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of premises on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	6	6
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	59	65
Total	65	71
No. of cases in which defects were:-		
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u> <u>Referred by Factory Ins- pector.</u>
Sanitary Conveniences -- Unsuitable or defective	3	3 1
Want of Cleanliness	1	1 -
Total	4	4 1

No. of Outworkers - 131.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Forty-six smoke observations and visits to plants were made during the year and verbal complaints lodged with those responsible for unsatisfactory smoke emissions. It is anticipated that the proposed change of use in one offending factory will lead to a material improvement.

Two new installations were approved under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district available for use by the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the Council and the water is chlorinated and regularly sampled.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

I can add little to the observations I made on this subject in my Report for last year. The position locally remains unsatisfactory. Improvement is hoped for when the Caravans Bill becomes law.

It does appear essential that, if caravans are accepted as suitable long term dwellings, a statutory standard for overcrowding should be laid down in the same manner as is done in respect to dwelling houses.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No action was called for during the year in connection with verminous premises.

Trouble was experienced, however, with clusters of flies (*musca autumnalis*) in the roof space of houses and fourteen accumulations were treated with D.D.T/smoke candles.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

The total treatments undertaken in the district during the year numbered 458.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises subject to registration under the above mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No. of licensed premises	<u>1</u>
No. of inspections made	<u>4</u>

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for or taken during the year toward the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention under the Act.

HOUSING.

Total number of houses in the district 2,127

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 79

No. of inspections made 123

No. of informal notices served Nil

No. of informal notices complied with Nil

No. of statutory notices served Nil

No. of statutory notices complied with Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16
of the Housing Act, 1957 Nil

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect
of such houses -

Demolition Orders made Nil

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure Nil

Reconditioning Nil

Other Action Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during
the year 18

Slum Clearance.

Three clearance areas, comprising 18 houses, were represented to you during the year. Confirmation of the Clearance Orders had not been made by the end of the year.

Overcrowding.

No 'Statutory' overcrowding came to notice during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Two houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants.

Seven 'Discretionary' and 3 'Standard' improvement grants were made during the year.

It is suggested that all owners of property lacking reasonable sanitary amenities should most seriously consider taking advantage of availability of the 'Standard' grants to bring their property up to a reasonable standard.

'Unfit' Houses occupied under Licence.

Three houses on which demolition or closing orders have been made were occupied under licence at the end of the year.

New Houses.

Three new houses were provided by private enterprise during the year and two by the Council. There are now six hundred and sixty eight Council houses in the district.

Fifteen families were rehoused by the Council during the year. At the end of the year the names of one hundred and eighty applicants were on the waiting list of whom fifty were living outside the district. This was twenty more than a year ago.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by
the District Council _____ 8

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to
registration _____ 2

No. of 'distributors' subject to regis-
tration _____ Nil

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination
during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	11
Pasteurised	34
Undesignated	-

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	25
Canteens - School and workplace	8
Confectioners	10
Meat and Fish	10
Grocers	9
Mixed Stores	6
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	7
Food Factories	2
Stalls	2
Other	7

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section
16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of

Ice cream	33
Sausages & Prepared Meats	3
Fish and Chips	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES (Continued)

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test _____ 99

Eighty six of the before-mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, one hundred and fifty inspections being carried out.

Full co-operation was obtained in the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations and no 'exemption certificates' were recommended or granted.

Byelaws in respect of the Handling and Wrapping of Food etc., are operative in the District.

Food Inspection.

Butchers' and Other Shops.

Quantities of foodstuffs condemned - 343 lbs. and
1 Gross of eggs.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

All food condemned at food shops is disposed of at the refuse tip and meat from the slaughterhouses at a knackers yard.

Slaughterhouses. There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

Inspection of these slaughterhouses were carried out and a full report presented to the Council in anticipation of the formal report which will be required by the Ministry under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Reference must again be made to the subject of meat inspection and especially to the irksome nature of the times when inspection has to be carried out - Saturday or Sunday afternoons and mid-week evenings. The inspections at these times are almost exclusively for 'export' meat, out of the district.

Some control over times of slaughter does appear reasonable and essential, unless public health inspectors engaged in meat inspection are to be expected to accept conditions of employment which would not be tolerated by the majority of employees. The duties are most onerous in the smaller authorities areas' where evening and weekend duties cannot be arranged by rota or time taken off in lieu is not a practicable proposition.

From the following table it will be seen that a total of 10,274 animals were slaughtered and inspected compared with 9,360 in the previous year. The increase was entirely due to an increase in 'export' meat - calves and lambs in particular.

It will also be noticed that amongst cattle slaughtered, only 0.44% were found to be affected with tuberculosis compared with 5.29% in 1958 and 4.76% in 1957. This reduction is no doubt a result of the County having become a tuberculosis eradication area.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Including Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	675	6,091	2,309	1,199
Number Inspected	675	6,091	2,309	1,199
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	2	25	3	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	74	20	94	230
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.41%	0.74%	4.20%	20.01%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.44%	-	-	0.58%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,417
Total No. of informal notices served	20
Total No. of informal notices complied with	20
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
Total No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. RADIATION HAZARDS.

During the year Circular 57/59 was issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Radioactive Substances Bill was introduced before Parliament.

The Circular reviewed the measures taken at the present time by the several Government departments concerned to assess and control radiation hazards.

The monitoring for natural background radiation and from nuclear fall out does appear to be a matter better undertaken by the Central Government. It is however, very important that the findings and interpretation of the findings, in readily understandable form should be made known to local Authorities and their officers if the confidence of the public is to be best maintained.

If the Radioactive Substances Bill is not materially changed in its passage through Parliament, Local Authorities will be aware of the existence of premises within their district where radioactive material is in use and with regard to the authorised arrangement for the disposal of radioactive waste from such premises.

Although the control over the use and disposal of such materials will remain with the central Government, the information given under the Bill to Local Authorities will be of some advantage in connection with their responsibility for the maintenance of a healthy environment.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	55
Dysentery	3
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	3

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
3	2

Food Poisoning -

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.

